027.8
I8

IOWA LIBRARY QUARTERLY

Issued by the Library Commission of the State of Iowa

GENERAL LIBRARY
JUL 13 1912
UNIV. OF MICH.

ENTERED AS SECOND CLASS MATTER AT THE POST OFFICE AT DES MOINES, IOWA

Edited by ALICE S. TYLER

DES MOINES,
APRIL—MAY—JUNE, 1912

VOLUME 6
NUMBER 2

IOWA LIBRARY COMMISSION

OBJECT: *To aid in the establishment and development of free and other public libraries in the State of Iowa.*

MEMBERS.

JOHNSON BRIGHAM, *Chairman*, Des Moines.
JOHN G. BOWMAN, Iowa City.
A. M. DEYOE, Des Moines.
MRS. HORACE M. TOWNER, Corning.
MRS. DAVID W. NORRIS, Grinnell.
MRS. HENRY J. HOWE, Marshalltown.
MRS. A. J. BARKLEY, Boone.

ALICE S. TYLER, *Secretary*, Des Moines.

This quarterly is mailed *free* to all public libraries, and to trustees of free public libraries in the State of Iowa.

The Library's Opportunity to Interest Young People in Better Things

BY DR. CORA WILLIAMS CHOATE, TRUSTEE, MARSHALLTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Theory must, of necessity, precede practice; and now, more than ever before, do we need theories as to how we can successfully attract all ages from entertainments of negative, if not questionable merit, to those which are better, more instructive and for the lasting good of the individual. I believe we can do it, but the important thing is to prove it can be done. The methods we have tried have worked well, encouragingly well, but we need still others, so that we may gather from the highways and byways, those who have started wrong and who need, even against their wills, to be set right and helped to keep right.

If we had the funds to place in our library the mechanism necessary for moving pictures; then have interesting subjects of an educational nature shown free two or three times a week, I believe we could, in this way entice—for that is what we must do at first—people whom we could gradually interest in good reading. If counter attractions are attempted they must of necessity be better than those we wish to counteract. We condemn moving pictures of the questionable type and the cheap vaudeville performances, but must supplant them with personal endeavor to provide wholesome and entertaining pictures to interest in things intellectual. I am sure the library with such an attraction would be the hub of the town. The personal experience will not soon be forgotten when, with the keenest interest, followed by exhiliration, I saw moving pictures showing the Army Hospital dogs and their work; one could not read about them and gain so much knowledge, and it would be impossible to see them unless in the midst of active battle. To see the method by which these dogs were trained to save lives that would otherwise perish was most instructive. The pleasure gained from this made one keenly receptive of other good things to follow; if you want to know how others will be impressed by anything, try it first on yourself.

We have had in our library a series of lectures on books, on travel, music, art, etc., splendid, all of them—but they did not draw the people, particularly

the people we wanted most to reach. We offered informal talks on subjects in which we supposed them to be especially interested, and they did not respond. And we arrived reluctantly at the conclusion that they did not want, and would not accept, these things. We needed to give something more distinctively entertaining; in other words, people would far rather be amused than instructed.

Recognizing the need of entertainment for growing boys, our librarian talked to the Boys' Secretary of the Y. M. C. A. regarding the matter. We had been considering methods of getting boys who took books from the branch library at the Y. M. C. A. to come to the main library. The secretary was a man of quick perception and action. He entered heartily into the plans, which resulted in arrangements being made for having stereopticon views exhibited every Saturday night in the library auditorium. Two series of pictures were exhibited nightly, one a Biblical subject with one of the ministers or the Y. M. C. A. secretary giving an entertaining talk at the same time. Gradually evolving out of the talk and pictures, some practical application of a principal or moral. When I read "Flamstead Quarries" sometime afterward, the lectures that Father Honore gave to his people, made me think of these.

You will remember that Father Honore had for his audience quarrymen of all nationalities, Cannucks, Bohemians, Scandinavians, Hungarians and Poles. He engaged their attention by talking knowingly about the things they knew most about and were interested in, so he held up samples of limestone, marble and granite. These, because they were quarried, put them in the Brotherhood of Labor, and because all three were taken from the crust of the earth, that made them from the Earth Mother—one *Kin*. Each one of these has its crystal—this puts it in the Brotherhood of Equality.

Then the stereopticon was brought into use and the scene was a Canadian cabin, the family at supper, the whole interior, simple and homely, was indicative of warm and cheerful family life. The Cannucks in the audience cheered lustily. Father Honore smiled and said, "This is comfort—no cold can penetrate these walls, they are double plastered, credit limestone with that." The audience showed its appreciation in no uncertain way.

"The Crystal, can anyone see that? Find that in the interior." The men were silent. Father Honore was pointing to the mother and her child, the father was holding out his arms to the little one, who, with loving impatience, was reaching away from its mother over the table to its father. They comprehended the priest's thought here as in the lesson of the limestone. The love and trust of the human. No words were needed, and an emotional silence made itself felt.

The picture shifted and there was thrown upon the screen the marble cathedral of Milan. A murmur of delight ran through the house. "Here we have the limestone in the form of marble. Its beauty is the price of unremitting toil. This too, belongs to the brotherhood of labor, kin and equality. Do you find the crystal?" His pointer swept the hierachy of statues, on to the roof, upwards to the cross on the pinnacle, where it rested. "This crystal is the symbol of what inspires and glorifies humanity. The crystal is yours, men, if with believing hearts you are willing to say "Our Father" in the face of his works. After this, many beautiful marble things famous for their artistic merit were shown, with the final words: "Have you find the third crystal, strength, solidity, the bedrock of endeavor.

Take these three home with you: the pure crystal of human love and trust; the heart believing in its maker; the strength of good character. There you have the three that make for equality in the world as nothing else does."

Father Honore knew how best to appeal to these lowly quarrymen. It is our business to find out how best to appeal to those we wish to help through our libraries. Once we are able to show them the pleasure and inspiration to better things that the library affords and we have gained the first step of the long climb we are planning for them and for ourselves.

Preceding or following the Biblical subjects shown in our library, were pictures of an entirely different sort; such as Wild West, Rough Riders, Skirmish with Indians, Ben Hur in two series, etc., etc. Occasionally, an illustrated song gave the restless feet an opportunity to exercise a few minutes.

Ninety boys came the first night, always afterward the room was practically filled—capacity 200—and many times overcrowded. Many would linger on the outside steps, and only with cordial invitation would they find the courage to slip in and up the stairway to the auditorium.

Invitation announcement cards were printed and distributed at the different schools and at the library. On Saturday evening, boys who were interested carried these cards up and down the streets, giving them to boys who had not received them before. Dozens of these boys seemed to spring from the very sidewalks, for they were not visible any other time during the week. In giving them the invitations this way, they came at once for the sheer novelty of it, before they had time to forget. It is estimated that at least one-half of the boys who attended these picture talks had not been in the habit of frequenting the library, although a few took books from the Y. M. C. A. branch.

The cards were printed at the Y. M. C. A. by some of the boys, and were thus obtained free of cost. They were always made interesting by some catchy word or phrase, attracting the eyes at once. Large posters were also placed in the store windows.

The stereopticon was owned by the Y. M. C. A. and operated by one of the boys under the direction of the secretary. The slides were obtained from film houses in Chicago, and were the chief expense, being rented at 5 cents per slide and expressage additional. This made the expense each night about three or four dollars. The chairman of the Boys' Committee of the Y. M. C. A. met this by popular subscription, receiving some aid from the Y. M. C. A. The room, lights and heat were furnished by the library. Books on the subject under discussion were placed in conspicuous places and loaned to those interested at the end of the program. The children's room was open all evening, the library made as attractive as possible and thrown open to inspection. The entire staff came on duty for the evening, and the boys were shown through the museum and interested in every way possible.

These entertainments were so popular that during the week many times the question was asked of the members of the staff "Aren't we going to have some pictures tonight?" They were so successful that we have completed arrangemets whereby the same work is to be carried on this winter. We shall unite our efforts with those of the Men and Religion Forward Movement, not only in our weekly stereopticon views, but in inducing men and boys to make use of the assembly room.

Dr. Wilfred Grenfell says, "The true following of the Master makes men utilitarian."

We plan that the library shall be the headquarters for the Boy Scout movement; it will thus be made non-sectarian, literary and on broad, stable lines, generally.

With a view to encouraging evening entertainment at home, our librarian has introduced games for all ages and grades of children. These are encased in bags and given out as books, charged on cards; and although the plan is still in its infancy, it is proving popular and successful.

The High School Boys' Debating Club has the use of the library auditor-

ium one evening a week. These debates are open to everyone, and civic questions are usually discussed.

For a long time, we have been trying to interest the working men and shopmen in our library (this includes both boys and men), but so far we do not feel that results are what they should be. We have given them invitations enough, have mailed them lists of books on mechanical subjects, and asked for requests from them for books which they would like. We have placed in public places, posters inviting them to come, and now we have gone a step farther and made of our newspaper room, an assembly room for workingmen, where they may drop in at their convenience. They will find magazines in abundance on the tables, lists of technical books that can be obtained upstairs, and easy chairs for their comfort.

We expect to have signs in the Trades and Labor union halls, and will do all the personal work possible to make this room a success from the start. A few of the ministers are much interested in this plan. We feel that if we provide warm, comfortable rooms and some entertainment, we may attract many who now find enjoyment on the street in different ways. I believe that if we can get them to come a few times, and prove to them that there are other and better attractions than the street affords, that new ideas and ideals will take possession of them. People who work with their hands are apt to become reticent, and it is hard for them to do any new thing or enter a new field. To overcome this reticence and dread is our aim and to convince them that these opportunities are for them.

Our librarian has inaugurated a Saturday afternoon club for girls from the sixth and seventh grades.

The members of the library staff sent formal invitations to the teachers and girls of all the sixth and seventh grades in the city schools, for Saturday afternoon. A game of travel was first played, leading them to a city in Italy. Then a short talk, illustrated with pictures was given, telling many things of interest about this city. The reason for the meeting was given and the girls were asked if they would like to have a regular meeting every week with a program of some kind. They were enthusiastic over the idea, and a sort of club was formed. They were given permission to bring work if they wished. It was decided to have a different grade furnish the program each week, as they will take more interest in it if they are responsible for its success. One grade immediately decided to give a little play for its day. There is great rivalry among the different schools, and each will work hard to excel. There were one hundred present the first day, and almost every one promised to come every week. It is the first work of any kind in the city for the girls, and they appreciate it.

There should be a stereopticon and a musical instrument in every library, for both instruments may be used in so many ways for different ages and grades. We could find use for them every day of the year, but it is difficult to see how their purchase may be made with the limited income available for library support.

Quarterly Bulletins

Both the Davenport and Burlington libraries issue bulletins every three months, giving a list of the books added to the library for the quarter and including such announcements, statistics, etc., as are of interest to the public.

These are distributed free to the library patrons and prove an excellent means of keeping readers informed as to the resources of the library.

Any library desiring a copy of John Muir's little book about his friend, E. H. Harriman, which has been privately printed may secure the same free by writing to Mr. Harry Peyton Steger, care Doubleday, Page & Co., Garden City, New York.

Adjusting Library Hours

No rules for the government of a public library have yet been found to be infallible. In fact, experience teaches us each year that in relating the libraries to the communities they are intended to serve, there should be adjustment of rules, of which there should be few, so that the best results may be obtained with the least expenditure of energy and money.

During the summer many libraries have maintained an apparently inflexible rule to keep the reading room open (and heated with the artificial lights) to as late an hour as is found necessary during the winter season. Is there any reason or economy in doing this, when all the conditions of our outdoor life and the high temperature induce even the most devoted friends of the library to spend as much time out-of-doors as possible? Money is expended in the payment of gas or electric light bills, and the librarian sits sweltering through the hot summer evenings maintaining the rule of the library that the reading room shall be open every evening until 9:00 p. m.! Why should not the hours of opening and closing of our libraries, especially in the small towns, be adjusted to suit the requirements of the season and the comfort of library patrons during July and August?

If the library building is opened in the early morning during the extremely hot weather, when the fresh air makes the room inviting, why should not the librarian be there for the forenoon when patrons would really enjoy it, and again for probably two hours in the late afternoon or early evening, giving opportunity for the exchange of books? This would give both patrons and librarians comfort and pleasure while in the library, and would permit the closing of the library during the hot hours of midday, early afternoon and evening.

Iowa Library Association

OFFICERS

Miss Grace D. Rose, President, Davenport.

Miss Helen M. Lee, Vice-President, Des Moines.

Mr. W. P. Payne, Honorary President, Nevada.

Mr. L. L. Dickerson, Secretary, Grinnell.

Miss Sarah Palmer, Registrar, Red Oak.

Mr. N. R. Parvin, Treasurer, Cedar Rapids.

In the six Districts of the State Association, meetings were held this spring, as is shown by the following reports. These meetings provide the opportunity for informal discussion of the many problems incident to the daily activities of the library, thus making it possible to arrange for a more extended discussion of the larger aspects of library work, at the State meeting in the fall.

The meetings have been voted of much help and inspiration by those in attendance. The President of the Association, despite her many duties as librarian of the Davenport Library, attended every District meeting.

The Program for the State meeting, which is to be held in Nevada early in October, is well under way and promises to be one of great interest.

Northeast District---I. L. A.

Grace D. Rose, Chairman Pro Tem.

The meeting of the N. E. District was held at New Hampton, April 26th. There were two sessions, one in the afternoon and one in the evening, for which the chairman, Miss Brainard of Waterloo, had arranged the program, but was unable to be in attendance at the meeting.

At the afternoon session, in the discussion of "Complete Works, Versus Open Sets," Miss Arnold advised the purchase of good, open editions of the standard authors and the duplication of the titles most read, rather than the purchase of a fine set that would be of little value except to the student.

Mrs. Anders thought that a few of the very best editions, especially of children's books, should be in even the smallest library. They are object lessons and teach the love of beautiful books and illustration. The Everyman's library, Macmillan's standard library, the Home library and other inexpensive editions for general use were discussed.

Miss Eastman's paper on five readable books, non-fiction, was much enjoyed.

Five wholesome novels recommended by Mrs. Baird were "Kennedy Square," "Mother Carey's Chickens," "Strawberry Acres," "Dawn O'Hara" and "The Believing Years." Others were suggested and discussed by those present.

Miss Tyler discussed a few recent books on social topics, among them: Jenks, "The Immigration Problem;" Devine, "Spirit of Social Work;" Weyl's "The New Democracy." The general discussion was very interesting and nearly everyone present had some good book to recommend.

The evening session turned very naturally to the discussion of the library as a social center, the use of picture exhibits, etc., and the possibilities of development along social lines.

Miss Miles, trustee of the Manchester Library, gave an account of the ways in which they had raised the money to furnish their library and buy the books. They felt that for the proper growth of the library the whole community must be interested and so give at least one entertainment a year, usually a home talent play, for the library. This supplements the small income and enables them to buy reference books and others more rapidly than would be possible otherwise.

Mr. H. M. Reed, President of the Waterloo Library Board, outlined the duties of the trustee and his relation to the library and librarian.

Miss Lynch, a trustee of the New Hampton Library, told how the social spirit has really brought about the establishment of their Public Library, and how they had found all classes in their city working together for its success. Book showers, socials and entertainments were held, and when the library building was dedicated there was a public reception, and the people of each ward had their special hour. The library is really a center of civic life and has great possibilities for influence.

The discussion of some of the ideas presented by Miss Lynch brought out the thought that the library should take the lead in matters of public entertainment and all that pertained to the building up of intellectual life. Moving pictures were advocated by some present, and the superintendent of schools, in his talk, advised the use of the Victrola and all kinds of practical aids to education, and said that only a beginning had been made in that line. Remarks were made by Mr. Schaefer, former Mayor, and several members of the local Library Board, including the President, Mr. Donovan. Miss Tyler concluded with a talk which summed up the thought of the evening and added inspiration for the future of the library.

The New Hampton people proved their social unity by their cordial reception of the librarians. Lunch was served in the library and a band played outside during the meal. Autos were ready to take the visitors about the city and many of the townspeople attended the sessions.

There were 26 at the afternoon session, and 40 at the evening one.

The district contains 19 libraries, 9 of which were represented. There were 5 trustees among the number. The meeting of New Hampton was an inspiring and interesting one, every one of the delegates and nearly all of the visitors taking some part in the discussions.

Middle East District---I. L. A.

Helen McRaith, Chairman.

The meeting of the Middle East District was held in the Public Library at Tipton, April 9th.

Fifteen librarians and assistants and nine trustees were in attendance, repre-

senting seven public and two college libraries in the district.

Judge W. N. Treichler, President of the Tipton Board, opened the morning session with a short address of welcome. The topics selected for the morning discussions pertained more particularly to problems of interest to the library workers. Many new ideas were brought out by Miss Barrette of Davenport in regard to establishing a picture collection and the loaning of pictures. The question of duplicate magazines and the work that is being done by the Commission was discussed at length by Mrs. Bryant of Newton and Miss Tyler of Des Moines. A very intereting part of the morning session was devoted to the talk on "Complete Sets Versus Open Sets and Inexpensive Editions," by M. G. Wyer, Librarian, State University. Single copies of many of the new editions now being advertised by the publishing houses were presented for examination.

At the invitation of the Tipton Board of Library Trustees the visitors were entertained at dinner at the Hotel Tipton.

The afternoon session was open to the public and subjects of more general interest were discussed. Miss Dean, children's librarian of Davenport, gave a most helpful talk on some of the new juvenile books, as follows:

For little children: Leamy's "Golden Spears and Other Fairy Tales;" Burgess, "Old Mother West Wind;" Perkins, "The Dutch Twins;" France, "Honey Bee." For older boys: Price, "The Land We Live In;" Grinnell, "The Trail of the Pathfinders."

Miss Hagey of Cedar Rapids reviewed the following readable non-fiction of the past year: Carleton's "One Way Out;" Harrison's "Recollections, Grave and Gay;" "Living Without a Boss;" Ross, "The Changing Chinese;" "Autobiography of an Elderly Woman;" "Matthews, "Log of the Easy Way."

As the Tipton library is accomplishing such commendable work with the rural districts through township extension, all present were glad to have the librarian, Miss Milligan, outline her work in establishing stations in the country schools.

Much interest was manifested in the question of tax levy and in the explanation of the new law on taxation of money and credit, and the effect it will have on the library levies next year. Mrs. C. C. Loomis, trustee from Cedar Rapids, lead the discussion, and J. C. France, trustee and city attorney of Tipton, told how the new law will effect the tax levy of public libraries.

The general impression of all present was that the present tax levy is insufficient to support the many growing demands made upon the libraries. As libraries are an important part of our educational system, the tax levy should be increased to enable the work to advance.

Miss Anna M. Tarr of Clinton was chosen district chairman for 1913.

A delightful luncheon was served by the ladies of the board and the library staff before the visitors left for the train.

South East District---I. L. A.

Mrs. Florence McKibben, Chairman.

The South East District meeting of the Iowa Library Association met at Washington, April 8th, in the Jane Chilcote Public Library.

There were 9 delegates from out of the city, among them Miss Tyler, Secretary of the Iowa Library Commission. Although the attendance was small for so large a district, those who participated felt doubly repaid by the discussion of the well selected topics.

The morning session was opened by Miss Rose, President of the I. L. A., who spoke of the state meeting at Nevada in October, and then gave a short talk on making the library a pleasant place. In trying to discover what gave atmosphere to a library, she thought that first it was the human sympathy displayed by librarian and assistants, and second, it depended upon the book sympathy they

possessed. The human sympathy comes first, because without it no person really feels at home and no amount of book knowledge makes a pleasant atmosphere. But the sympathy for books, many books of many kinds, and appreciation for the taste of others are also necessary if our pleasant place is a library.

Miss Rose also spoke of the new edition of the subject headings, edited by Miss Briggs, and problems in cataloging.

Miss Wharton of Burlington was very interesting in her topic, "Simplified Methods in Library Work." Her talk provoked lively discussion.

Librarians' hobbies, readable books, fiction and non-fiction, work with the country schools were other topics discussed. Miss Van Zante of Pella spoke of the selection of books and periodicals in her community.

In closing a vote of thanks was given the librarian and trustees for the manner in which they entertained; by a dinner at the hotel, a visit to the new county hospital, and automobiles to go about the city and return to the trains.

North West District---I. L. A.

Mrs. Elizabeth M. Horton, Chairman.

The meeting of the Northwest District was held in the Public Library at Storm Lake on May 15th.

Eighteen library workers were in attendance. The district was especially favored in having present Miss Tyler of the Library Commission, Miss Rose, President of the State Association, Miss Margaret W. Brown of the State Traveling Library, Miss Nason of the Ft. Dodge Public Library and Miss True of the Onawa Library. Within the district, one college library, that of Buena Vista, two association libraries, those of Alta those of Algona, Cherokee, Hawarden, Laurens, Sanborn and Storm Lake, were represented.

The citizens of Storm Lake extended every courtesy to the visiting delegates. They were met at the trains, and private homes were opened for their entertainment.

The morning session opened with the discussion, "How May We Help Country Schools." It was led by Miss True, the one best fitted by actual experience in pioneer Township Extension Work to speak with authority. Miss True gave her methods of interesting teachers and pupils in the work, emphasizing acquaintance through personal visits to teachers and patrons and an endeavor to get their viewpoint. In the discussion which followed it was suggested that effective work may be done through the normal classes being formed in High Schools by familiarizing the teachers who will work in the country schools with the resources of the public library.

"Recent Children's Literature" occupied the remainder of the morning session. This was discussed by Miss Walpole, who had collected for examination the books that she had found helpful in her work in the Storm Lake Library; other titles were suggested by the different librarians present. The greater part of the hour was given to the discussion of the best methods of co-operating with the teacher in establishing required reading courses in the schools.

At one o'clock a delicious luncheon was served in the assembly room of the library by the ladies of the Tuesday Club. One of the local papers calls this club the "Foster-mother of the Library" —and judging from its work during the meeting, it is proving faithful to its self-imposed trust.

At the opening of the afternoon session, Miss Margaret Cummins, an instructor in Buena Vista College and a member of its library committee, spoke on "Recent Social Literature." Miss Cummins selected four books illustrative of four phases of sociological work, of which she gave excellent, terse reviews. Dorr, "What 8,000,000 Women Want;" Addams, "A New Conscience and an Ancient Evil;" King, "The Social Aspect of Education;" Steiner, "The Broken Road." Miss Cummins was especially fitted to speak on this subject as she had aided Prof. King in

gathering material for his "Social Aspect of Education," and knew whereof she spoke.

Superintendent S. T. Neveln of the Storm Lake public schools then read a paper on "Co-operation of Public Libraries and Public Schools." Mr. Neveln's attitude toward the public library is broad and fine. He believes that the relations between the library and the school should be most cordial and sincere, and that they should work in harmony for the upbuilding, along right lines, of both institutions. To further this he would have the City Superintendent of Schools a member, ex-officio, of the Library Board.

The afternoon session closed with the topic, "Five Wholesome, Recent Novels to Be Recommended," introduced by Miss Wellman of Cherokee. The discussion centered about the novels that can safely be placed in the hand of young readers.

At five o'clock, through the courtesy of the Storm Lake Commercial Club, the visitors and members of the Tuesday Club were given an auto ride around the lake to the Casino.

At the evening session, Miss Rose gave a little travel talk covering part of a last year's itinerary in Europe. She confined her remarks to Holland. Miss Rose forsook the accustomed highways of travel and led us in a delightful way through pleasing, unfrequented byways, stopping here and there for interesting descriptions of Dutch customs, or to give charming little glimpses of Dutch interiors.

This was followed by a short address by Miss Tyler on "Advertising the Library." Anything of merit, said Miss Tyler, should be brought to the notice of the public. The library is a necessity, but necessities need to be advertised as well as luxuries. The public library is an institution that deserves all the art of the professional advertiser. Librarians have been too reticent about bringing the library and its contents before the public. It contains books helpful to business men, to professional men, to men engaged in all crafts, and these books should be advertised to let these men know that the library has something for them.

Thanks were extended to the people of Storm Lake for their hospitality and kindness and the meeting adjourned.

Middle West District---I. L. A.

Sabra L. Nason, Chairman.

The meeting of the Middle West District of the I. L. A. was held at the Jefferson Public Library, May 14th, with a brief forenoon session and an afternoon session.

Among the subjects discussed at the first session were township extension, binding, purchase of subscription books. In the afternoon the selection of books with suggestions of specific titles that had proved desirable filled the greater part of the program. Rent collections were discussed, both pro and con, the plan being found very successful in many places, but necessary to safeguard by providing also, if possible, a free copy of each book. Rules and regulations for borrowers were also discussed.

There was a good attendance and the discussions were animated.

The Jefferson Library Board entertained the visitors at dinner at the Head Hotel, and also at supper, and provided automobiles from and to the station.

The Perry Library extended an invitation for the next meeting.

South West District---I. L. A.

Sara Sheppard, Chairman.

The meeting of the Southwest District was held in Clarinda, April 30th. There are thirteen public libraries in the district, and eight of these sent representatives. Villisca, Shenandoah, Clarinda and Corning were represented by both librarians and trustees. Council Bluffs, Osceola and Chariton by the librarian, and Red Oak by librarian and Miss Ruth Beem. The district was fortunate in having both Miss Tyler, Secretary of the Library Commission, and Miss Rose, President of the State Association, in

attendance, and they added greatly to the inspiration and helpfulness of the meeting.

The first session was held Tuesday morning in the Public Library. Miss Terrill of Chariton opened the discussion on the topic, "Rules and Regulations for Loaning Books." A very spirited discussion followed, which was full of helpful suggestions. The subject, "Recent Literature on Social Topics," was discussed by Miss Barker of Villisca. She gave brief reviews of a number of books on this subject. Many of the trustees and librarians present suggested books which had proved of interest to themselves or their readers. The morning session closed with a "Question Hour," conducted by Miss Rose, which proved to be one of the most interesting hours of the day.

Through the courtesy of the Commercial Club a bountiful luncheon was served in the dining rooms of the First Presbyterian Church. The Club entertained as their guests the out of town visitors and a large number of townspeople. The following program of toasts was given, the President of the Commercial Club acting as toastmaster: "Problems of a Library Trustee," Mrs. C. E. Okey, Corning; "What the Public Reads," Miss Terrill, Chariton; "The Library and the Community," Miss Tyler, Des Moines; "What the Commercial Club Can Do for the Library," Mr. W. A. Turner, Clarinda; "The Iowa Library Association," Miss Rose, Davenport; "The Public Schools and the Public Library," Mr. F. A. Henderson, Supt. of Schools, Clarinda.

The afternoon session opened with a talk on "Recent Literature for Children," by Mrs. Dailey of Council Bluffs, who gave many excellent suggestions on buying books for the juvenile department. The next topic, "Duplicate Magazines and Their Possibilities," was discussed by Miss Palmer of Red Oak. She related her own experience in duplicating and circulating magazines in the Red Oak Library, and advised duplication only of the more expensive magazines.

A large number of those present gave suggestive titles of "Popular non-fiction of the past year," among which the following were mentioned as particularly readable: Bennett's "How to Live on 24 Hours a Day;" Slocum's "Sailing Alone Around the World" (suitable for 7th or 8th grade); Steiner's "Life of Tolstoi," and "The Broken Wall;" Squire's "The Woman Movement in America;" Mrs. Burton Harrison's "Recollections Grave and Gay;" Schreiner's "Woman and Labor;" Lea's "The Valor of Ignorance," and Van Dyke's "Poems."

The last topic of the afternoon, "How May We Help the Country Schools," was discussed by Mr. Deater, trustee from Shenandoah.

At the close of the program, a beautiful tribute to the memory of Mrs. Cara B. Willis, formerly librarian of the Clarinda Public Library, was given by the Rev. Mr. Cameron, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Clarinda.

Value of Reading Aloud

By Grace Shellenberger, Children's Librarian, Des Moines Public Library.

We have heard much of late of reviving the lost art of story telling.

There is another art that has been considerably neglected, an art that has much of the charm of story telling and demands less of time and effort than does the latter—the gentle art of reading aloud.

The custom of reading to children has been the habit of many teachers and mothers, but there is an opportunity for much pleasure as well as profit to the child who develops this ability.

It is true not only with children, but with grownups as well, that a pleasure shared is twice a joy. We have noticed in the children's library how eagerly one child hastens to another when something particularly pleasing has met his eye. And if one boy finds a very interesting book he brings his friend along

to take that book when he returns it. How much pleasure for both had they just read it together.

And not only does this reading aloud mean pleasure, but it means more careful reading habits, the gathering of the thought more clearly because someone else depends upon the expression of it, and then it means a cultivation of the voice. Soon will come a power of interpretation, an unconscious assuming of the characters of the story, which adds to the impression made, not only upon the listeners, but even more upon the reader.

As we think of the surroundings in which such reading might be done, by far the most ideal would seem the home, a family circle where father, mother and children could share in the pleasure, and yet many of the home activities go on undisturbed.

There are many books that are of interest to the several ages that would be represented. There is Stevenson. Hildegard Hawthorne says he has made more people happy than could be crowded into the state of Texas.

Short stories are excellent for reading aloud. Hawthorne's "Wonder Book" has some excellent stories, and the style and language are so beautiful. Kingsley's "Heroes" seem almost designed for just this purpose. One story would quite fill an evening, and the reading responsibility might be shared.

On the shelves in the children's room is an abridged copy of "Les Miserables" called "Jean Valjean," written by Sarah T. Wiltse. It is really the most interesting part of the book. This may sound like rather heavy reading, but it is a great story and we would like to make sure that few people miss it, and so begin with the boys and girls. The reading of this book occupied the time available for reading for a whole school year in one rural school. It was amazing almost to see the interest it had for even the 6 and 8-year-olds of that group. More than once afterward some little incident showed the influence of that strong, beautiful character, Jean Valjean, on those children as they took their turn at the hard labor that often comes to the boys and girls of the farm.

Stockton's books are so well written, so full of adventure and sometimes humorous circumstances that they make good material for reading aloud. We have been noticing a particular interest in "Buccaneers and Pirates of Our Coast" and "The Story of Viteau."

The latter tells the story of the experiences of a boy who, through his own recklessness, was captured by a band of robbers and held for ransom. It also pictures excellently the times of chivalry in France.

Then there are the charming books of Washington Irving. Because we would like to make new friends for it and renew old acquaintances we must mention the "Legend of the Alhambra."

Of Howard Pyles' "Men of Iron" someone has said, "It is a model book for reading aloud."

The story tells how Miles Falworth made good in the court of Henry IV of England, where they were all "men of iron."

The problem of the children's libraries is ever that of how to get the children interested in the best literature. So much of the great literature of the world seems being missed or at most only being known by the title.

There is such a strong appeal made by the new all the time. It seems that the fact that a book is of sufficient interest to a grown person, to father or mother, to be read carefully, has so much weight. This is one thing that would be gained in the reading aloud in the home, the influence on the choice of reading.

A book has not only its moral effect, but the effect of the good English is great. So many of our recent books are somewhat carelessly written; often the boys' books, especially that class of athletic stories which are popular, are full of slang. And the girls' books too full of petty trials and disappointments to make any impression on character formation, much less to add to or correct

the vocabulary, the poverty of which doubtless is one great cause of the use of slang.

It is an accepted fact that the vocabulary is increased more by the spoken than the written word, so here is an added value to the practice of reading aloud.

As the children come in little groups and select their books, to trot happily away with them, it has occurred to us who watch, that a new-old form of amusement might be in a reading party.

There will be not only the amusement for the time, the happy gathering together of a congenial group of friends that are sharing in the joy of the interesting book written in beautiful English, but in after years many times that evening may be recalled. The whole picture of friends, surroundings and all the events will rise up in the memory when something calls back the story or book.

And in speaking of the pleasure of books and reading, there is one form of literature that has been most neglected of all. Andrew Fletcher said that if he were permitted to make the ballads of a nation, he cared not who wrote its laws. His, of course, was in a time when poetry was recited rather than written, but there are few people who do not respond to the charm of the rhythm of verse. In addition to that, many of the old ballads have a fire and daring as well as swing that is enchanting once a person gets into the spirit of it. Not all interest in Scott's "Lady of the Lake" or "Lay of the Last Minstrel" has died out—thanks to some teachers—but many miss the ballads of "Robin Hood," "Chevey Chase," and the "Idylls of the King." The beauties of nature, of the returning springtime, have nowhere been so well and satisfyingly expressed as in the poetry of the world. Let's sometimes "lend the beauty of our voice." not only to the "poem of our choice," but make some new friends among poets. They still sing on undaunted by the lack of general appreciation.—(Reprinted from the Des Moines Daily Capital.)

Iowa Libraries and the State Historical Society

It would seem that every library in the state had by this time become well informed as to the work of the State Historical Society of Iowa, and the service it is rendering to libraries. Nevertheless there is need to remind the librarians again that Iowa has a State Historical Society, of which it may well be proud. It is providing for a nominal sum, publications relating to the state, which should be in every library in the state. It is not an extravagant statement to say that no Historical society in this country has produced more creditable publications, both as to the character and careful preparation of the text, and also as to the attractive, dignified and artistic physical makeup of the publications. Professor B. F. Shambaugh, the Superintendent of the Society, has been the directing and inspiring influence in the development of the work of the Society, and he has steadfastly maintained the highest standards in the work of the Society. The Biographical Series, in which has been issued creditable volumes from time to time, numbers among its volumes carefully prepared sketches of the lives of men associated with the early history of Iowa, such as Governor Lucas, Thomas Cox, John Chambers, Augustus Caesar Dodge, Henry Dodge, Justice Miller, George Wallace Jones, and others. In the Economic History Series, such books as Downey's "History of Labor Legislation," Brindley's "History of Taxation" and Clark's "History of Senatorial Elections" indicate the careful research that is given to matters that might not to the average person appear to be strictly historical, but nevertheless have much to do with the development fo the state. The publication of the "Messages and Proclamations of the Governors of Iowa," and of the "Executive Journal" were logically among the early publications issued by the Society.

Not the least of the valuable material with which libraries are supplied is the "Iowa Journal of History and Politics," issued quarterly and edited under the able supervision of Dr. Shambaugh. The research work carried on under Dr. Shambaugh's supervision, in connection with his work as Professor of Political Science at the State University, has enabled him to bring together a group of strong men to carry on the work of the Society.

Some years ago a program for the study of Iowa history was issued by the Society, which has proved of great value in stimulating clubs to give consideration to the history of their own state, and this outline should be in the hands of every librarian. In brief, every librarian should take a pride in the publications of the State Historical Society, and see that they are all in her library, and these can be secured by a library membership of $1.00 per year, which should be sent to the Superintendent of the State Historical Society at Iowa City.

A Midsummer Suggestion to Libraries

may be in order at this time. The dull season of summer is commonly and wisely chosen for the annual overhauling, cleaning, refurbishing, and repairing which all public libraries, their books and appliances, have to undergo in the perpetual endeavor to withstand the ravages of time and dust, of use and disuse and misuse, of noxious fumes from without or within, and of other disintegrating and destructive agencies. College and university libraries especially choose the vacation months for book-dusting, and shelf-cleaning, and the muffled bang of the ancient tome, opened to its limit and violently closed again to dislodge the pulverous deposit of the past year, resounds through the deserted alcoves with an incidental dismemberment of many a venerable volume whose leather binding has been gradually crumbling to the point where none but the revential touch of the bibliophile can be safely undergone, but where, protected from the profane hands of the cleaner, the book is still good for many years of such service as it is likely to see. The suggestion is that all libraries adopt the method already employed by not a few—that of vacuum-cleaning—which, in celerity, thoroughness, and economy, is vastly superior to the old way. If anyone questions this superiority, let him visit the Princeton University Library and examine the results there achieved by the vacuum process. In fact, almost any well-administered large library can furnish a demonstration.—(The Dial, August 16, 1911.)

Iowa Summer Library School

After eleven successful, consecutive sessions of the Iowa Summer School for Library Training, it was decided to temporarily suspend its work for the summer of 1912, through the mutual agreement of the Library commission and the State University authorities, under whose joint auspices the school has been held.

The school was established in the first year of the Commission's activities, by the Secretary of the Library Commission, who has served as Director, as one of the agencies for raising the standards of library service throughout the state.

Many Iowa librarians have attended the school during these years and the influence of the school is evident in scores of libraries throughout the state.

Books for School Libraries

The Department of Public Instruction has recently issued a new graded and annotated list for use in selection of books for school libraries. This list was compiled by Miss Edna Lyman, and will prove equally useful to public as well as school libraries in book selection.

Library News of the State

Algona.—The Woman's Library Aid Society of Algona held a fete on June 20th for the benefit of the public library. The people of the city and of the county entered heartily into the spirit of the occasion. The sports were held at the fair grounds and it is estimated that two thousand people were in attendance. There were Maypole dances, Boy Scout drills, ball game between business men, athletics by the High School, motor cycle and slow auto races; but the great feature of the occasion was a pageant of decorated automobiles, representing different countries, industries and public questions. The decorators showed great originality, ingenuity and taste. Japan won first place in the decision of the judges, a car representing a large engine second, and the suffrage car third. There were many beautiful cars. The library had a dainty car trimmed in pink and white. A young lady and a group of children were having a story hour. Placards on each side advertised the library and its hours. The society netted $560.00 for the library.

Mrs. William H. Ingham, one of the library trustees, passed away June 11th. Mrs. Ingham came as a bride to Kossuth county in December, 1857, settling first on a farm and moving to Algona in 1866. Since that time her interests have centered in the little city and her beautiful, gifted life has been given to its upbuilding. She was a woman of rare charm, great intellect, gifted in writing. Her strong character and the influence of her personality will long be felt in the city, many of whose policies she was instrumental in forming.

Captain and Mrs. Ingham gave to the city the lot on which the public library stands, and Mrs. Ingham had been on the Library Board since its organization. In her going, Algona loses one of her most loved pioneers and the library one of its staunch supporters.

Ankeny.—The recenty organized Library Association of Ankeny has opened a Public Library, which is being well patronized. Mrs. Harriet Ankeny Mast has recently presented the Library with $50.00 of new interesting books, chiefly for the young people.

Boone.—Miss Rena Ericson has presented to the Ericson Public Library a portrait of her father, the late Hon. C. J. A. Ericson. It is fitting that this portrait should be placed in the building which is a memorial of him and which he gave to the city.

Cedar Falls.—The Public Library has received from a former resident, G. Washington Pfeiffer, now of Bologna, Italy, a handsomely bound set of Cicero's Works, the binding dating back to the 16th century, but handsome and well preserved.

Cedar Falls.—State Teachers' College.—The many friends of Miss Ellen D. Biscoe may not have learned of her death Jan. 29th at Grafton, Mass. The news did not reach the "Quarterly" in time to be included in the previous issue. Miss Biscoe was a brave spirited sufferer through her long illness. She was librarian at the State Teachers' College during the period when the new library building was in process of erection, and was devoted to securing the best results possible. Capable, broadminded and sympathetic, she won the love and respect of students, fellow librarians and associates.

Des Moines.—Library Commission.—Miss Ida Louise Lange, who has been associated for two years with the work of the Traveling Library as Reference Librarian, resigned her position May 1st. She was married June 22d to Mr. Addison M. Parker of Des Moines, and will make her home here upon their return from a summer trip in Europe.

Miss Grace Riffle, who has been on the Traveling Library staff for about four years, was married to Mr. Charles M. Cathcart of Des Moines, April 28th.

Des Moines.—The Des Moines Library Club closed a successful year by a picnic at Union Park June 4th. At the business meeting the officers were elected for the ensuing year as follows: Miss Alice Marple, President; Mrs. Georgia Easter, Vice President; Miss Lavinia Steele, Secretary; Miss Bertha Wilson, Treasurer.

Fort Dodge.—The April number of the Ladies' Home Journal contained an article by Miss Sabra L. Nason, the librarian of the Fort Dodge Public Library, on the work of Children's Civic Leagues for beautifying the city. It is based on her experience while librarian at Iron Mountain, Mich.

The Wahkonsa Club has presented to the Public Library a portrait of Marie B. Welles, a library trustee since the organization of the free public library and an active member of the Wahkonsa Club. The portrait is by Wilbur Reaser of New York.

Marion.—Miss Mabel Alexander has resigned her position as librarian of the Marion Public Library and was succeeded June 1st by Miss Katherine Peirce. Both have attended the Iowa Summer Library School.

Oskaloosa.—A reception was held at the Public Library on the evening of June 4th, when the museum owned by Penn College, but which has been placed in one of the rooms on the second floor of the Library, was opened to the public. The occasion offered opportunity for an inspection of the work of the Library and there was a large attendance.

The Woman's Club united with the Library Board in the decoration of the rooms and assisted the librarian, Miss Minton, and the Library Trustees in showing the visitors about the building.

Sanborn.—The new Carnegie Library building, costing $4,500.00, was dedicated with appropriate exercises, May 22d. The building is attractive and convenient and marks the culmination of the active and enthusiastic efforts of the women of Sanborn, led by Mrs. M. M. Burns, President of the Library Board.

Sigourney.—An offer has been made by Mr. Carnegie of $10,000 for a library building. Steps have been taken for a special election, July 15th, to vote upon the question of a municipal library tax in order to establish and maintain a library, as there has been no library heretofore in Sigourney.

Storm Lake.—The library interior has recently been decorated in plain tones of cream, buff and brown, and presents a most attractive appearance. The walls had not been tinted at the time the building was erected because of lack of funds.

Vinton.—The Public Library and the community generally has sustained a great loss in the death of Judge G. M. Gilchrist, President of the Vinton Library Board, who passed away in June at the age of 73. Judge Gilchrist stood for the dignity and worth of his profession and for the welfare and uplift of his community, and considered the library one of the valued agencies for civic well-being. He saw active service in the Civil war and served as both County and District judge.

The grounds of the Public Library are to be beautified by Prof. A. T. Erwin of the State College at Ames, through the efforts of the women of the Civic Improvement Society.

Waterloo.—Miss Grace Wormer resigned her position as first assistant in the Waterloo Public Library, Division A, in April, to accept a position on the staff of the State University Library at Iowa City.

The death of J. M. Brainard, May 8th, called away one who was unusually well-informed regarding library matters and thoroughly in sympathy with the library as an educational institution. Mr. Brainard's wife and daughter, Miss Mary, have been long associated with the work and growth of the Waterloo Library, the former having been in charge of Division B for many years and the daughter now holding that position. Mr. Brainard was a wide reader and a real lover of books.

Library Tax Levy

The income of free public libraries, as well as other city departments, is likely to be affected by the law passed by the last General Assembly relative to the taxation of moneys and credits. (See Laws of the 34th G. A., page 45.)

One Library Board has reported a decrease in the library income of $600.00 because of this; and another library trustee (who is a lawyer) writes: "I think the average town of between 2,000 and 10,000 population will suffer a decrease in the library income of approximately 20% on account of this change in the law. Of course, the decrease in the income would be less where the taxable value of the moneys and credits is less than 22% and would be more where the moneys and credits constitute a greater percent of the taxable property."

In view of such a possibility, it is of the utmost importance that Boards of Library Trustees should give this matter consideration in making the recommendation to the City Council for the library tax levy for the ensuing year. The growth and extension of the work of the local public library naturally requires an increase in the levy, from time to time, and with the possibility of this shrinkage in income a larger levy should be given consideration.

Township Extension

A number of Library Boards conferred with Township trustees previous to their April meeting, regarding the free use of the public library, by the residents of the township, under the provisions of the state law regarding a township tax for this purpose. Inquiries were sent to all the public libraries by the Library Commission asking reports regarding results, but response has not yet been received from all libraries.

So far as information has been received the public libraries in the following towns have secured the co-operation of one or more townships by the levy of a tax for the use of books, though the list is probably incomplete:

Alden, 1 township, ¼ mill levy; Boone, 1 township, ¼ mill levy; Cedar Rapids, 2 townships, 2-10 mills levy; Clarinda, 2 townships, — mills levy; Dunlap, 1 township, 1 mill levy; Eldon, 1 township, — mills levy; Ft. Dodge, 1 township, ¾ mill levy; Onawa, 6 townships and 3 towns, ½ mill in 3 townships and 1 mill levy in 3 townships; Tipton, 1 township, ½ mill levy; Woodbine, 1 township, 1 mill levy; Ames, 1 town; Grinnell, 1 township, ½ mill levy.

Almeda Holman

A young librarian who has a wide circle of friends throughout the state, Miss Almeda Holman, died June 10th at her mother's home at Rockwell after an illness of many months. Her disease baffled many physicians being an unusual affliction, known as Hodskins' disease. Miss Holman was on the staff of the Mason City Library several years, attended the Iowa Summer Library School, and later completed the regular course at the State University of Iowa, after which she graduated from the Library School of the University of Illinois in June, 1911. She was elected librarian at Mason City to succeed Mrs. Chapin, just before the close of the Library School, and hoped to have a brief vacation before taking up the responsibilities of the new position. Soon the insidious disease began to manifest itself, but it was hoped that a year's rest would overcome it; hence Miss Holman resigned her position and was succeeded by the present librarian, Mrs. Baird. The devoted care of a brother, who is a physician and consultation with eminent specialists failed to stay the disease.

Miss Holman had a most winsome personality and by her gentle strength overcame many obstacles and achieved recognition not only in library circles, but in the Y. W. C. A., serving as President of the University Association at Iowa City.